

STILLWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) approved the Stillwater improvement project in June 2005. The project involved adding one lane in each direction on State Route (SR) 44 and constructing an interchange at the SR 44 and Stillwater Road intersection. Construction of the project was dependent upon receiving sufficient state and federal transportation funds.

Due to a shortage of transportation funding this fiscal year (2005/2006), Caltrans is unable to construct the entire project in 2008 as planned. However, limited funding is available.

To take advantage of the available funding, Caltrans plans to modify the project to fit the current budget. This entails designing a smaller and slightly different type of interchange. The interchange will require less area, but will serve the same purpose as the original interchange configuration, which is to improve safety and operations and maintain travel between the local and regional transportation systems.

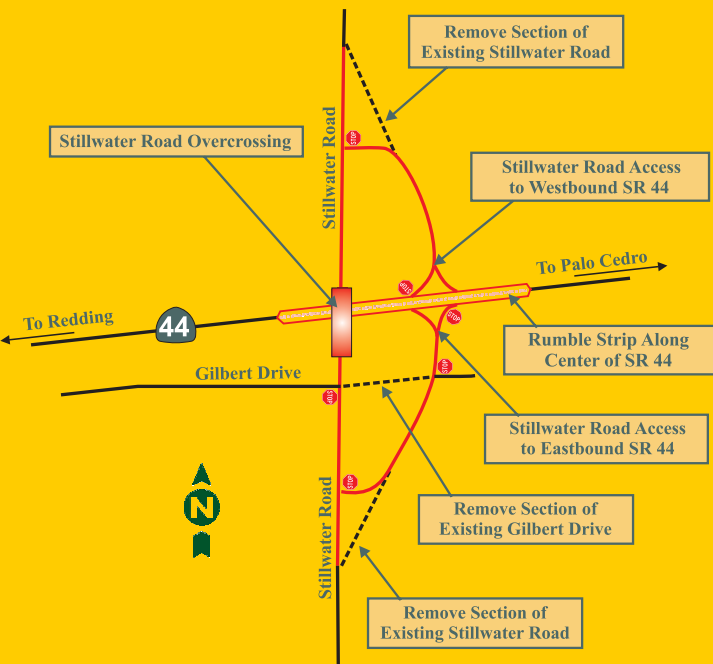
OVERVIEW OF REVISED DESIGN

MAINTAIN STATE ROUTE 44 AS A TWO-LANE HIGHWAY

State Route (SR) 44 will be expanded to a four-lane freeway when funds become available.

CONSTRUCT STILLWATER OVERCROSSING

A two-lane overcrossing will be constructed over SR (State Route) 44. The north and south segments of Stillwater Road will be extended to the new overcrossing structure. This bridge structure will be designed to span the ultimate four-lane width of SR 44.



RECONFIGURE STILLWATER ROAD ACCESS TO STATE ROUTE 44

The existing Stillwater Road access will be modified to allow only right turns onto and off of SR 44. A median will be constructed between eastbound and westbound traffic to discourage left-turn movements onto SR 44 from Stillwater Road. Deceleration lanes will be provided in both directions for vehicles exiting the highway at this location.

RECONSTRUCT ACCESS ROADS

The existing sections of Stillwater Road north and south of SR 44 will be realigned to connect to the extensions leading to the new overcrossing. Existing sections of pavement that will no longer be used along Stillwater Road and Gilbert Drive will be removed. Seeding and/or planting will be used to control erosion in these areas. Private driveways will be rerouted to provide access to the realigned roadways.

MODIFY GILBERT DRIVE ACCESS TO STATE ROUTE 44

The Gilbert Drive access (approximately one mile east of Stillwater Road) will be modified to allow only right turns onto and off of eastbound SR 44. Access from Gilbert Drive to westbound SR 44 will be eliminated. Left turns from westbound SR 44 onto Gilbert Drive will still be allowed.

What happens next? The project is currently in the design phase. Based on the modified project, Caltrans is amending the project report and environmental document to reflect the new plans. The amended project will not result in substantial new or additional environmental effects and therefore a formal environmental evaluation will not be required.

ESTIMATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

Caltrans and FHWA Approve Revised Project	April 2006
Project Plans Complete	August 2007
Award Project to Contractor	April 2008
Begin Construction	May 2008
End Construction	December 2010

Based on the current schedule, construction would begin in spring 2008. The project is expected to be complete in two years from start of construction.

For information about this project, you may contact the Project Manager, Phil Baker at (530) 225-3180.



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